

TABLE 1. Selected characteristics of partners in heterosexual dating couples, National Couples Survey, 2005–2006

Characteristic	Female (N=335)		Male (N=335)	
	% or mean	SD	% or mean	SD
OUTCOMES				
Anal sex in past four weeks	22	41	27	44
STD protective behaviors in past four weeks				
Did nothing to protect themselves	62	49	61	49
Used condoms	30	46	32	47
Decided to engage in less risky sexual practices	8	28	7	26
SOCIAL/DEMOGRAPHIC				
Relationship duration (range, 0–343 mos.)	33.72	32.41	35.15	37.59
Age (range, 18–62)	26.61	4.70	28.77	6.66
Race/ethnicity				
Black	49	50	49	50
Hispanic	4	20	8	27
Other	47	50	43	49
Not religious	32	47	48	50
Mother's education				
<high school graduate	12	32	12	33
High school graduate	29	45	34	47
Some college	24	43	24	43
College graduate	33	47	28	45
No mother	2	15	3	16
Father's education				
<high school graduate	13	34	23	42
High school graduate	23	42	23	42
Some college	18	39	18	38
College graduate	33	47	23	42
No father	13	34	13	33
FRAMING EVENTS				
Lifetime no. of sex partners (range, 1–100)	13.97	18.27	22.18	25.39
Prior STD infection	22	41	19	39
Had known someone with AIDS	44	50	51	50
PERCEPTIONS OF AIDS RISK/SEVERITY				
Perceived chance of getting AIDS from one encounter with an infected partner				
% chance for a man	72.73	32.85	63.46	36.19
% chance for a woman	76.58	30.07	71.73	32.38
Perceived severity of AIDS (range, 12–39)	27.95	3.71	27.30	3.95
RELATIONSHIP POWER				
Education (range, 1–20 yrs.)	13.46	2.77	13.33	2.81
Log of income (range, 0–11.6)	8.29	3.59	8.73	3.23
Relationship commitment (range, 1–5)	2.94	0.86	3.11	0.81
Relationship alternatives (range, –1.5 to 1.6)†	–0.13	0.97	–0.16	0.89
Gender role ideology (range, 8–32)	17.20	5.34	18.18	5.15
Compliance-gaining strategies				
Partner's (range, –1.2 to 2.9)†	–0.26	0.87	0.05	0.86
Respondent's (range, –1.3 to 2.9)†	–0.13	0.90	–0.03	0.87
CONTROL OVER SEX/CONTRACEPTION				
Control over sex (range, 16–50)	36.27	6.04	33.92	5.42
Control over contraception (range, 3–15)	6.33	2.88	7.51	2.44
Decisions about sex/contraception (range, –2.6 to 2.7)†	–0.32	0.89	0.20	0.84

†Factored measure with a mean approaching 0 and standard deviation close to 1. Notes: SD=standard deviation. For continuous measures, higher scores indicate respondents' greater perceived severity, lower perceived relationship commitment relative to their partners, greater perceived relationship alternatives, more traditional gender role beliefs, more frequent use of coercive tactics and greater perceived likelihood that their partners make the decisions about sex and contraception.